**Nonfiction Literature Circles**

**Teaching the students how to have good discussion groups**

Lesson 1:

* Class discussion- create anchor chart “What Makes a Good Discussion”
* Give students a text. Teacher reads aloud, modeling thinking about text. Students follow along. Students get a focus question to answer. They reread text with focus question in mind and then answer the question.
* Students participate in small group discussion. Students not meeting for discussion work on another activity silently.
* Focus on gathering ideas from other students and changing their answer in some way.

Lesson 2:

* Repeat procedure of first lesson with new text.
* Focus on using text evidence to support answer to focus question.

Lesson 3:

* Repeat procedure with new text. Teacher does not read aloud initially unless necessary.
* Focus on interacting with other students correctly in a discussion.

Lesson 4:

* Repeat procedure with new text.
* Focus on putting it all together.
* Student reflection afterwards- individual and group reflection.

Next steps:

* Begin to use longer fiction texts.
* Students generate own questions about text. Teach about different types of questions.
* Work up to non-fiction texts. Start with easier ones.
* Review discussion group rules before each meeting.
* Have discussion groups often to keep procedure routine.
* Main procedure= meet with small groups one at a time while other students work on silent activity. Keep this procedure until groups run very smoothly. Return to this as a base structure as you branch out to other structures.
* Introduce different harvest strategies.